

## **MINUTES**

### **INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

October 7, 2009  
Department of Education  
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room  
151 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:02 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Jo Blacketer, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Daniel Elsener, Steve Gabet, Sarah O'Brien, Vicki Snyder, Neil Pickett, Mike Pettibone and James Edwards were present. Board member David Shane was not present.

#### **I. Call to Order**

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **II. Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **III. Statement of the Chair**

Dr. Bennett and Ms. Snyder, Principal, Signature School Inc. introduced Alison Petrash, a senior from Signature School Inc. who painted a picture of President Teddy Roosevelt. The painting was presented to Dr. Bennett at the Signature School Inc. commencement ceremony and is now on display in Dr. Bennett's office. Miss Petrash said this was the first acrylic painting she has done. She plans on majoring in commercial art in college.

#### **IV. Spotlight on Learning**

Dr. Philip Bender, Superintendent, New Prairie United School Corporation, joined the Board electronically for the Spotlight on Learning presentation.

New Prairie United School Corporation is using stimulus money to operate a community based Activity Center. The program is offered to Title I eligible students in grades K-2 at Prairie View Elementary School and all grade levels at Rolling Prairie Elementary School. The residential community in which the program is offered houses 102 children in grades K-5. Ninety-four percent of those students are on free and reduced price lunch. Sixty-four percent of those students are limited English proficient. Programs include homework assistance and “edutainment” activities.

The school corporation is cognizant of the need for a sustainability plan to maintain the program after the two-year stimulus period ends, and several community organizations have agreed to partner with the Activity Center. The corporation also plans to reach out to the faith-based community.

The key concepts of the program are:

- Providing extended day instructional services to improve English proficiency and academic achievement.
- Taking the program to students and parents rather than making them come to the program.
- Using stimulus money but building sustainability in as a key component.
- Developing public and private partnerships.

**V. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Pettibone discussed the Army Education Summit he attended at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, including the following points:

- The quality of our education system has a direct impact on the quality of our military.
- Less than three out of 10 kids who apply to get into the Army are accepted.
- Problem based learning and project based learning is emphasized in Army education programs.

Mr. Pettibone also discussed an Army web site, “March to Success,” that includes seven tests that prepare students for the SAT. This aligns with our New Tech setting.

**VI. Adjudications and Hearings**

**VII. Public Comments**

Public comments were provided by Martha Neidenberger, Vic Smith, Nancy Papas, ISTA; and Tony Hollowell, Teacher, Cardinal Ritter High School.

## **VIII. Discussion**

Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer, discussed assessment issues and said the release of ISTEP+ results went smoothly. Schools had access as planned, and results were released to the public on September 16. Over 60,000 student reports have been accessed through the "Parent Network," which provides parents with web access to the student's test results. The GQE retest was administered to students in the classes of 2010 and 2011 on September 15, 16 and 17. Those test results will be returned to school corporations November 30. Mr. Bruce discussed end of course tests (ECAs) and said schools and corporations are selecting their test windows for the administration of the 2009-2010 ECAs. This will be the first administration of the "Graduation Examination" Algebra I ECA and the "Graduation Examination" English 10 ECA. Cut score setting will take place in July 2010, with results anticipated in August 2010. Board members discussed concerns regarding how cut scores determine if students should be retested. It will be some months before we know the results of tests given this year. Mr. Bruce said the normal cycle of setting cut scores does create the issue of trying to determine whether or not the students should be retested. Currently professional judgment should be used to look at student mastery, how a student actually performed over the entire course. A report will be released in November as to the best path and the guidance DOE will be giving to schools to deal with this issue.

Dr. Carol D'Amico, and Matt Fleck, Director of College and Career Placement, discussed Indiana Career and Technical Education Initiatives. Dr. D'Amico said a partnership has been formed between the DOE and Workforce Development, which, for the past 20 years, provided the leadership for Indiana Career and Technical Education. The Department of Education will focus on curriculum, and Workforce Development will focus on career guidance and labor market information. Department of Workforce Development will continue its data collection.

Dr. D'Amico said Indiana's Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses will be aligned into state-approved Indiana Career Pathways over the course of the next three years.

Mr. Fleck said an Indiana Career Pathway is an aligned sequence of secondary and, in most cases, postsecondary courses that leads to: (1) an industry

recognized credential or technical certification; (2) an associates or baccalaureate degree at an accredited postsecondary institution; (3) or a registered apprenticeship in:

- An occupation labeled as high wage and moderate or high demand in Indiana;
- An occupation within the eight emerging career areas identified in the Indiana Strategic Skills Initiative; or
- An occupation approved by the Indiana Commission on Career and Technical Education.

Dr. Bennett said this a part of the DOE's vision in that the academic achievement and career preparation of all Indiana students will be the best in the United States and on par with the most competitive countries in the world. Indiana's Career and Technical Education programs play a vital role in fulfilling this vision by helping students succeed in school and be prepared for success in college and a career after high school.

Dr. George Frampton, Director of Accreditation, discussed school accreditation. Dr. Frampton said the State Board of Education has revised standards and taken action to reduce the number of legal standards from 38 to 29, by eliminating some standards and combining others. Many of the 29 remaining standards previously relied on the submission of paper forms, which confirmed that a school was in compliance with a standard.

The review of each of the 29 standards produced information concerning which requirements should be repealed because they were based on statutes or regulations that had expired, or were never specifically tied to accreditation by law or regulation, or were needlessly complex and could easily be combined in more concise standards. Dr. Frampton said this review also provided the department with a list of standards specifically required for accreditation.

Dr. Frampton also mentioned that two required accreditation standards that have not been addressed are compliance with graduation requirements and remediation grant requirements compliance.

It was determined that many of the standards could be certified by the building principal using a secure, on-line electronic form. An on-line scoreboard reflecting the building's instant standing would allow a building principal to easily monitor progress toward meeting all accreditation requirements. The on-line system would significantly reduce the logging and filing of tens of thousands of paper forms and improve accuracy and data management at the DOE.

Dr. Frampton discussed the advisory group of district administrators and building principals invited to review the proposed changes and participate in trials of the technology to be used. Board members asked that representatives from Charter Schools be added to the advisory group.

Next steps are to make changes suggested by Board members, submit the proposal to the advisory group for their feedback, and present a request for final approval at the November Board meeting.

Dr. Frampton said the long term goal is to merge P.L. 221 and accreditation, currently two separate standards in statute, and have one easily understood process.

Dale Chu, Senior Advisor for School Leadership and Policy and Jeff Zaring, Chief of Results and Reform and State Board of Education Administrator, discussed accountability issues and said the technical assistance team visits for 23 schools have started. All visits will be completed and reports written by the December State Board meeting. A progress report will be provided to Board members at that meeting.

Mr. Chu said the State Board of Education, when it created the state accountability system, identified a need to use indicators beyond ISTEP to assess performance and improvement of high schools. Not all the data were immediately available and much has changed – the graduation rate calculation, Core 40 as the graduation expectation, elimination of the Grade 9 test, shifting PSAT to Grade 10, and replacing the Graduation Qualifying Examination with Algebra I and English 10 ECAs.

Mr. Zaring said the following elements have been identified as possible elements for a high school accountability system:

- Graduation Examination results (Algebra I and English 10 ECA).
- Higher level diplomas (academic honors, technical honors, international baccalaureate).
- Advanced placement (participation and results).
- International baccalaureate examinations.
- Industry certifications.
- Accredited college credits.

Mr. Pettibone suggested adding the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.

Mr. Elsener said, "Every once in awhile we hear, 'Well, things aren't that bad.' If we once thought there was no sense of urgency that we had to turn some schools around, it is not an option any longer. Too many children are involved. We need to partner with communities and make this a mandate and get the best help available." Mr. Zaring said a draft of a Board communication about this urgency is being prepared by David Shane.

Dr. Bennett said we have to help these schools and engage these schools, school boards and communities about the problems in the schools that are not serving kids. How many more schools should we be dealing with? Should we be dealing with more than 23 schools?

Board members discussed the idea of raising the accountability profile by eliminating vague category names and assigning grades to schools. Dr. Bennett said he supports this idea. We will never bring accountability to the level where it needs to be until we make accountability transparent and understandable to every person in the state.

Mr. Zaring said New York and Florida are moving to the system of grading schools and that Florida is looking at the bottom 20 percent of the students in each school to ensure that all students learn. Indiana would like to include their concept.

Gary Green, Director of Student Services, discussed H1N1. When schools reach a 20 percent absence rate, they are required to notify DOE and their local county health officials. As of this date, two schools have reached that rate, both located in the southern part of the state. The department has also received notice of the closure of one nonpublic school. Schools have been cautioned to be in contact with their local homeland security offices and health departments. Each county has a county health official, who is responsible for organizing the county's H1N1 program. Some schools will give the H1N1 vaccination and some will not. Mr. Green said the department is developing a process for dealing with the continuation of education for schools that might close due to high absentee rates. This should be completed in a few days. Closure of schools will be contingent on circumstances and could last from three to seven days, depending on conditions.

**IX. Consent Agenda Items**

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for adoption of final orders in administrative adjudications where no objections have been filed to the recommended order of the hearing officer. [Agenda item VI, A]

- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Common School Fund Advancements for Charter Schools.
- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of School Technology Advancement Account loans. [Agenda item X, A]
- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Professional Development Grants. [Agenda item X, C]

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Mr. Pettibone abstained as to Adams Central Community Schools; Mrs. O'Brien abstained as Avon Community School Corporation; Mr. Gabet abstained as to East Allen County Schools; Dr. Griffith-Adell abstained as to Thea Bowman Leadership Academy; and Ms. Snyder abstained as to Signature School Inc.

**X. Action**

- A. Jane Cooney, Math Specialist, presented a request for approval of adoption of mathematics textbooks.

Mr. Pickett made a motion to delay adoption for a month, and bring this matter back to the Board at the November meeting, along with a proposed public statement similar to the one issued by the Board regarding social studies textbook adoption. Mr. Elsener seconded the motion. The motion passed with nine ayes and one no (Mr. Pettibone).

**XI. Board Operations**

Mr. Zaring invited Board members to the Teacher of the Year Banquet, scheduled for the evening of November 4.

Mr. Elsener was approved by consensus to become the second State Board of Education representative to the Education Roundtable.

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Mr. Gabet moved for adjournment. Mr. Elsener seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.







